Exodus of people from Kashmir and Punjab

273. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the condition of the refugees from the Kashmir valley and Punjab who had been forced to leave their hearts and homes in the wake of recent disturbances there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the relief measures taken so far for their rehabilitation; and

(c) the steps being taken to stop further influx of the people from those States?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) More than 10,000 families have left Kashmir Valley for Jammu, and more than 1,000 for Delhi; and some families migrated to other parts of the country;

So far the Valley is concerned, the Governor's adminstration is making necessary arrangements so that people from the minority community who have left their health and homes, have been given necessary protection, and have been put up at certain segregated locations; in addition, arrangements have been made for them to be taken to enable them to visit their immovable properties at least twice a week. Two Relief Commissioners for Jammu & Kashmir Division, who will be in charge of the relief work connected with the Kashmiri migrants have been appointed in the Valley.

For migrants at Jammu, the Governor's administration has made the following arrangements:

(a) Accommodation in public buildings and provision of ration to the needy, medicines and sanitary coverage;

(b) Strengthening of public distribution system in localities where the migrants have taken shelter, and issuing temporary ration cards;

(c) Placing of sufficient funds at the disposal of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu so that any contingency expenditure can be met.

In respect of migrant families from Punjab, the following facilities have been provided to the migrant families who have returned to the State:

(i) Transport Allowance at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- per family;

(ii) Ex-gratia grant of Rs. 5,000/- per family;

(iii) Allotment of LIG house or in lieu of that, rental allowance at the rate of 1,250/- per month;

(iv) Bank loan upto Rs. 25,000/- without security or margin money with subsidy at the rate of 20 per cent of the loan amount subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,000/-

Steps taken to check migration from Punjab includes strengthening police arrangements and measures to curb terrorism and to improve law and order situation in the State.

Devolution of power to the North-Eastern Provincial Council

274. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held discussions with the Sri Lankan authorities over the pace of devolution of powers to the North-Eastern Provincial Council and safety of Tamils before complete withdrawal of the IPKF;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions and its outcome; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take with regard to the safety and security of the Tamils there?